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01291 Peace Corp

Magazines Closed In Peru Clampdown

Special to The Washington Post

LIMA—Three of Peru's last independent news magazines have been shut down in the past week and nine journalists have been exiled by Peru's military government in its continuing clampdown on alleged "counterrevolutionary" forces within the country.

The drive was linked in a government-controlled newspaper last week to the recent ouster of the Peace Corps from Peru.

The Peruvian Times, an influential English-language magazine, was closed last week, and two others, Oiga and Opinion Libre, were closed Wednesday. All were shuttered because they made public details of a \$330 million contract between the state-owned oil company and Japanese concerns that are to build a pipeline from Peru's Amazon oilfields over the Andes and down to the country's Pacific coast.

Five lawyers quoted in Opinion Libre and Oiga as critical of the deal were arrested Wednesday. They were among 15 attorneys charged last week by the state prosecutor with defaming state dignitaries and endangering the security of the state after they denounced the contract as "illegal and in violation of Peruvian law on foreign investment."

Most of the nine Peruvian journalists deported, flew to

Buenos Aires. The government action was applauded by the rest of Lima's newspapers, which were taken over by the government in July.

One of the government papers, Cronica, suggested last week that Peace Corps volunteers in Peru were thought to be part of a "destabilization" plan similar to that allegedly carried out by the CIA against President Salvador Allende's government in Chile.

On Nov. 4, the Peace Corps' 101 volunteers and 36 trainees were given three months to leave Peru, but no official explanation has been given nor any formal announcement made regarding the request. The trainees and six of the volunteers have arrived in Washington while the rest were expected to leave shortly.

[In Washington, a Peace Corps spokesman said the agency "strongly denies any connection whatsoever" with the CIA.]

The Peace Corps continued to work in Peru during the tense years after President Juan Velasco Alvarado came to power in a coup in 1968 and expropriated a subsidiary of the Standard Oil Co. five days later.

Nationalist in all its pronouncements, the government has been highly sensitive to any suggestion that its contracts with foreign oil and



GEN. JUAN VELASCO
... exiles journalists

mining companies are in any way more favorable to the companies than to Peru.

It thus reacted strongly when the three magazines now closed down revealed that the Japanese pipeline contracts contained an arbitration clause that permits the settling of disputes by independent third parties. The government earlier had attacked that kind of clause as diminishing the sovereignty of the state.